

Libby



Rural District of Horncastle

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1955

HORNCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
1955

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HIGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

F.W. HARPER, A.R.San.I., M.C.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

H. SMITH, A.R.San.I., M.C.I.A.
(Resigned 31/4/56)

P. WILSH, A.R.San.I., M.C.I.A.
(Appointed 1/5/56)

The Medical Officer is also Medical Officer of Horncastle Urban and Woodhall Spa Urban District Councils. He is also Assistant County Medical Officer.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Building Inspector and Heat Inspector.

The General Purposes Committee deals with matters affecting Public Health.

Members of the General Purposes Committee:-

E.E. Andrew	C. Carter	Dr. F.C. Cordeaux
Ald. A.L. Dunham	H. Ellerby	C.B. Gilliatt
H. Croft	B. Harrison	G.H. Hodgson
G.M. Hoyes	Rev. R. Jones	Rev. A.G. Kirby
F.J.W. Height	G.B. Read	C.L. Leggott
Dr. W.P. Roe	Ald. L. Rowston	A.E. Robinson
Ald. T.W. Scholey		

To the Chairman and Members, Horncastle
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. McPeeters and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report for 1955.

This report follows the usual lines but it will be found, on comparison with earlier years that solid progress is being made in the district.

The establishment of an up to date sewage system for Tragby was a task filled with difficulties but the greater part of the work was done in the year under review.

The much less ambitious extensions to the Coningsby Sewage works have also been undertaken together with the installation of the pipes for the West Kirby Sewage Scheme.

There is a sharp reduction in the number of new houses in the District and this will inevitably continue as a result of credit restrictions.

It will be seen that the immediate effect of Revaluation for Rating has been to reduce the Council's revenue from this source rather than to increase it, as many people had expected.

The low death rate and high proportion of deaths in the 'over 65' group implies a growing need for accommodation for the aging but not infirm as well for the aged and infirm who if they are not looked after by friends become through this Council, a responsibility of the County Council or the Hospital Board.

Hutted camps remain a source of anxiety to the Council and its officers and there now remains a hard core of difficult problems to be faced - families with a poor standard of living, to whom a Council house, with its high rent would be a mixed blessing. The huts are now entering their last year of life and before 1957 is out, their occupants will have to be re-located.

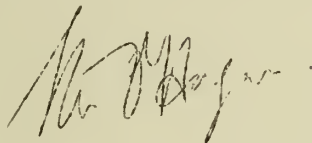
Immunisation remains a stumbling block and still only about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the new babies are protected against diphtheria and whooping cough.

The dispersal of Animal slaughtering has caused a back-log in the work of the Sanitary Inspector so that figures cannot be given for the numbers of over-crowded houses, nor relating to details of Water supply.

With a shifting element in the population, figures relating to overcrowding are of doubtful value but the water supply position should be clarified in the near future.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'W. H. G.' followed by a flourish.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

AREA OF RURAL DISTRICT:	114,629 acres
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF MID-YEAR RESIDENT POPULATION:	12,690
DENSITY OF POPULATION:	0.109 persons per acre
NUMBER OF INH ABLED HOUSES:	
PERMANENT	3,864
TEMPORARY	36
CARAVANS, etc.	21
RENTABLE VALUE OF RURAL DISTRICT at 31/3/56.	£73,079.
SUM REPRESENTED BY RENT RATE at 31/3/56	£165. s12. 4d.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	Male	84
	Female	97
	Total	181
Illegitimate	Male	2
	Female	4
	Total	6
Total live births		187
Crude Live Birth Rate per thousand estimated population		14.75
Standardized Live Birth Rate per thousand estimated population		16.7
Live Birth Rate, England and Wales per thousand estimated population		15.0

Still-Births
Legitimate

Male 3
 Female 4
 Total 7

Illegitimate

Male 0
 Female 0

Still Birth rate per thousand
 live births 1949 - 1954 mean 18.7

Still Births, per thousand live
 births, 1955 only 35

Still Birth rate, England and Wales,
 per thousand live and still births
 1955 23.1

DEATHS

Males 67

Females 59

Crude death rate per thousand
 estimated population 9.92

Standardized Death rate per thousand
 estimated population 9.14

Death Rate England and Wales per
 thousand estimated population 11.7

Distribution of Deaths in Age Groups

Age at Death	0-1	1-4	5-9	9-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & over
No of Deaths	7	1	0	0	2	1	1	4	11	31	59
% of Total Deaths	5.55	.76	0	0	1.59	.76	.76	3.18	8.73	24.6	43.65

Causes of Death at Ages under 65 years

Years

- 0 - 1 Prematurity (2) Congenital Defect (3) Pneumonia (1)
Atelectasis (1)
- 1 - 4 Sarcoma (1)
- 5 - 14 Nil
- 15 - 24 Encephalitis (1) Intestinal Obstruction (1)
- 25 - 34 Malignant Melanoma (1)
- 35 - 44 Hepatic Cirrhosis (1)
- 45 - 54 Cardio-vascular degeneration (4)
- 55 - 64 Cancer (2) Cardiac (4) Nephritis (1) Cerebral Thrombosis or
Haemorrhage (2) Pneumonia (1) Transverse Myelitis (1)
Pelvic Abscess (1)

Maternal Mortality

Since 1945 there has been no maternal death and in the same period 2230 children have been born.

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's short list

Short
List

No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Gyphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and Parasitic diseases	2	1	3
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	0	1
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	3	3
14.	Other Malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	7	3	10
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	0	1
16.	Diabetes	1	0	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of nervous system	6	9	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina	6	7	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	7	2	9
20.	Other heart disease	10	3	13
21.	Other Circulatory disease	2	0	10
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	2	2	4
24.	Bronchitis	2	0	2
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory system	0	1	1
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	2	2
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	7	20
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	0	2
34.	All other accidents	2	0	2
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
TOTAL		67	59	126

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Pneumonia	14	0
Scarlet Fever	10	0
Measles	210	0
Whooping Cough	56	0
Food Poisoning	2	0
Salmonellosis	1	0
Erysipelas	1	0
Polionmyelitis	3	0
All others	0	0

Apart from the high incidence of measles, which was expected and the lesser secondary peak in the whooping cough cycle other diseases were not excessive and there was little warning of the dramatic outbreak of Sonne dysentery that attacked the Coninsby area within a few days of the return to school in January 1956.

In retrospect it seemed probable that cases were occurring sporadically and unrecognised.

A study was made of the age incidence of measles and whooping cough to ascertain whether any young child's infection could have been traced to contact with other cases notified in the same house. However, only 19 cases of measles were in children under two, and of these only six showed previous cases in the same house.

Discussion with General Practitioners suggests that the cases in young children were not particularly severe and that passive preventive measures were not justified.

In the case of active immunization, there is now little doubt that, in the case of whooping cough, a very great degree of protection is given by immunization and the combination of the materials so that both diphtheria and whooping cough protection are achieved in three visits is now firmly established with both doctors and parents.

Measures for Control of Infectious Diseases

The following figures are given by the County Medical Officer of Health:-

Diphtheria Immunization	Under 5 years	5 - 14 years	Boosting Doses
1955	35	8	73
1954	132	12	153
1953	132	5	104

Whooping Cough Immunizations (Under 5 years)	Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
1954	32	53	19	12	5	121
1955	0	2	2	0	1	5

Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunizations (Under 5 years)	Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
1954	6	1	1	-	1	9
1955	70	25	6	3	1	105

	Under one	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 & over	Total
Vaccinations 1955	52	4	0	1	57
1954	79	12	1	2	100
Re-Vaccinations					
1955	0	0	1	8	9
1954	0	3	5	7	15

National Assistance Act, 1947 as amended

No cases have been brought before the Council during 1955.

National Health Service Act.

The principal provisions are administered by the Regional Hospital Board through the Hospital Management Committees. In common with the rest of the country, accommodation for mental defectives is seriously lacking and many defectives remain an intolerable burden on their families for years before accommodation is found.

A survey of defectives for whom accommodation had been sought has been carried out with the object of making an impartial priority assessment.

Hospital accommodation for acute cases of illness can always be found through the Bed bureau at Lincoln County Hospital whilst although it is considerably more difficult, the same agency has been most helpful when beds are required for the chronic sick.

The use of small local hospitals, not only for chronic sick, but also for the less seriously ill medical and surgical cases is well established and is beneficial to the patient as well as to the local doctors who retain the care of their patient whilst in hospital. This makes for continued confidence between doctor and patient which should not be under-estimated in value. Similarly, the local welfare services, such as the N.V.N. are strengthened by the knowledge that they are helping their own local folk.

Housing:

The fruits of the housing survey were beginning to become recognisable by the end of the year, and the volume of unfit housing dealt with under demolition orders, etc, had increased three-fold on the previous year.

There was, however, a sharp reduction in the number of new houses completed during the year and further reduction is anticipated during 1956, simultaneously with an increasing rate of disposal of unfit houses.

The effect of building in other areas is becoming felt, however, and population is being lost to the district in consequence. Correspondingly a certain amount of private housing is becoming available although rarely of a type or in a location suitable for families who are at present in unfit houses.

Under the Housing Act, 1949, 48 grants were made on the understanding that the work for which grants were made would render the dwellings fit for some years to come.

Each item has been checked in detail with similar items for Council houses and it is reasonable to say that a substantial expenditure on new houses has been saved whilst satisfactory homes have been made for the 48 families concerned.

Water Supply:

Water remained in very short supply during the year but supplies were maintained by manipulation of the available sources.

Physical progress, visible to the layman, became very apparent in the Eastern area during 1955, and reached a peak of activity during 1956 so that at the time of compiling the report a great mileage of pipes, large and small have been laid and reservoirs all but completed. There remained however, considerable work on the primary sources of water and the final distribution, so that it is not now anticipated that the supply will begin to operate before 1957.

Sewage Disposal:

The installation at Wragby has had some teething troubles which were duly dealt with and the cutting up of the road and verges is less painfully obvious.

In West Ashby advantage was taken of the County Council's Highway improvement scheme to lay a foul sewer in the same trench through the village and thus to obviate re-opening the road. This was in advance of the main scheme and no disposal plant has been erected.

The extensions to the Coningsby Scheme has been carried out.

Refuse Collection:

No complaints have been received regarding this service but there remains difficulty in finding suitable sites for refuse disposal and the large volume of paper is a nuisance to the collectors.

There is proper pressure on food preparers to wrap their products effectively but this entails wrappers and containers not readily disposable in some modern homes.

Food Hygiene:

Progress has been made in rendering safe the public milk supply. Now there is no retailer of raw undesignated milk in the area.

It must be recognised, that, desirable as it is, the milk of tuberculin tested cows, like any other milk, is liable to contamination after leaving the cow, and thus carry the germs of disease.

Nevertheless, the elimination of raw undesignated milk from the trade is a victory worth recording.

In the case of foods sold retail in the district, much is of the pre-packed type, e.g. wrapped bread, tinned vegetables and fruit and the risk of infection is minimal.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 will provide for much stricter control of food premises and rigid inspection will be required for it will remain a duty of the Inspectors to ensure that all food-handlers know and understand the regulations so that they realize why they are required to comply and not merely to passively do as they are told.

Meat Inspection

Complete post-mortem inspection is recorded for all animals killed for food in the District and a comparison with the figures for 1954 will show how this work has been more than doubled in the year.

The incidence of tuberculosis in carcasses remains high - about 5% of beasts and pigs and 23% of cows. Since cow-beef and pork are largely used for sausage-making, the importance of thorough cooking must be emphasized and I can see no sense in the cookery-book suggestion that beef sausage takes only half as long to cook as pork sausage.

It is understood of course that meat known to be infected is condemned and dyed by the Inspector but there remains always some risk of infection of other parts or other carcasses should the slaughterman's knife or other tool become contaminated.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY CHIEF HYGIENIST
FOR THE YEAR 1955

TOTAL NUMBER OF HOUSES ERICHTED DURING THE YEAR	33
(i) By the Local Authority	18
(ii) By other Local Authorities	-
(iii) By other bodies or persons	15

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(1)(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts.)	276
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	315

REMOVAL OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	117
---	-----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a) Proceedings under Sec. 9 & 10 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners 1 (b) by local authority in default of owners 0	
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) by owners 1 (b) by local authority in default of owners 0	
(c) Proceedings under sec. 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	10
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	5
(3) Number of dwelling houses subject to undertakings or closing orders	26

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING

(a)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	11
(b)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	N/K
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	N/K
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	N/K

HOUSING ACT, 1949

(a)	Number of applications for grants received	56
(b)	Number of grants made	48
(c)	Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	0

MOVABLE DWELLINGS, TENTS, VANS ETC.

Number of Site Licences	0
Number of individual licences	21
Total number of caravans permitted under licences	21
Number of inspections during the year - sites	0
dwelling	24
Number of contraventions remedied	1

FOOD PREMISES

BAKESHOPS

Number in district	13
Number of inspections	17
Number of contraventions	2
Defects remedied	2

MILK SUPPLIES

Number of distributors on register:-	
Sterilised	2
Pasteurised	2
T.T.	2
H/D	0
Number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery	0
Number of inspections of dairy premises	12
Contraventions remedied	0

ICE CREAM

Number of manufacturers on register	2
Number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream	38
Number of inspections of premises made	40
Number of contraventions found	0
Number of samples taken	0

MEAT PRODUCTS

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	19
Number of inspections made	21
Number of contraventions found	0

OTHER FOOD PREMISES

Number of inspections	45
Number of contraventions found	4
Number of contraventions remedied	4

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Number licenced -- abattoir	0
Private (individual)	8
Number operated by local authority	0

UN SOUND FOOD

CARCASSES OF CATTLE AND SHEEP

	cattle excluding cows	cows	calves	sheep and lambs	pigs
Number killed (if known)	693	101	22	2284	2513
Number inspected	693	101	22	2284	2513
All diseases except tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	-	16	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	36	12	-	38	74
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.6	11.8	-	2.4	3.0
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	38	24	-	-	126
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.5	23.7	-	-	5.0

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

6 lbs Tinned Ox Tongue

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food:-

Meat - stained and collected for animal foodstuffs

Other foods - Buried

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	N/K
Number of houses with pail closets in district	N/K
Number of houses with water closets in district	N/K
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets and privy vaults	54

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Number of Cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed etc.	329
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	28

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved:-

New system of sewers completed in Dragby

New system of sewers completed in West Ashby

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved:-

Complete new system at Dragby

New Drying beds, balancing and settling tanks at Coningsby

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons (state briefly reasons):-

Mareham le Fen - Old system of open ditches inadequate and causing serious nuisances at times of drought.

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic	
Number of houses supplied from public mains	
- in house	N/K
- standpipe/tap	N/K
Number of houses supplied from private sources	
- in house	N/K
- not in house	N/K
New sources of supply - private	0
- public	0
Number of public supplies closed as (i) polluted	0
(ii) other reasons	0
Any part requiring a public supply or the replacement of a public supply for public health reasons	
Eastern Area Supply Scheme - now started.	
Number of samples taken for chemical examination	0
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination:-	
From Public supplies: Class I - 28; Class II - 2;	
Class III - 3; Class IV - 1.	
From Private supplies: Class I - 2; Class II - 0;	
Class III - 0; Class IV - 9.	

GENERAL

Offensive Trades	
Number of premises in district	1
Number of inspections	2
Contraventions remedied	0
Knackers Yards	
Number licenced	2
Number of inspections	3
Contraventions remedied	1
Shops Act, 1950	
Number of Shops inspected	0
Disinfection etc.	
Rooms disinfected: (a) ordinary infectious diseases	0
(b) tuberculosis	1
Number of premises disinfected	1

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	All
Frequency of collection	Quarterly except for Coningsby, Tattershall and Wragby which have fortnightly collections
Method of disposal	Controlled tipping
Is this satisfactory	Yes
Is collection by Local Authority or Contract	L/A

Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during the year:-	
(1) Abated as a result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector	142
(2) Reported to Council - Statutory notice issued	1
" " not issued	0

Details of nuisances abated:-

	After informal intimation	After statutory notice
Smoke	0	0
Accumulation of Refuse	33	0
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	17	0
Fowls, pigs and other animals	24	0
Housing:- (included under 'defects remedied under Public Health Acts' earlier in report.)		
Dampness	34	0
Dangerous Premises	2	0
Drainage	29	1
Other	3	0
Miscellaneous Nuisances	0	0

Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of Rodent operatives employed	One
Number of premises treated	
(a) dwelling houses	347
(b) other premises	113
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?	No

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Return of Proposals in accordance with Part I of the Act and
Circular 55/54

Total number of permanent dwellings in local authorities area 3,900

Part I The total problem

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Sec. 9 of the Housing Repairs and Repairs Act, 1954, and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. | 230 |
| (2) | Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (1) | 5 |

Part II Orders already made, etc.

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (3) | Number of houses in (1) in clearance areas and already covered by operative or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority | |
| (4) | Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative | 0 |

PART III Action in the first five years

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (5) | Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years | 0 |
| (6) | Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister | 0 |

- (7) Number of houses under (3), (4), (5) and (6) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under Sec. 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 for temporary accommodation 0
- (8) Number of houses under (3), (4), (5) and (6) to be demolished in the five years 0
- (9) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under sec. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. 130

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provision as to Health (Including inspections made by sanitary Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	ritten Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which secs. 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority (non-power)	13	10	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (power)	67	54	0	0
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers premises)	2	2	0	0
TOTAL	82	66	0	0

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences:					
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4	4	-	-	-

